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SUCCESS STORY

Anti-Corruption on the Radar in Afghanistan

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Ms. Homaira Ayubi, member of the Afghan Parliament of the Lower House.

“The PACC represents a successful and innovative example of an anti-corruption body within the Afghan Parliament – a concept that was unheard of not long ago.”

Afghanistan has ranked near the top of international corruption indices for over a decade. With last year's elections, campaign promises, and ongoing reports of fraud in the news, a gathering momentum to tackle corruption has been rising among citizens and Members of Parliament alike.

A member of the Afghan Parliament of the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House), Ms. Homaira Ayubi, took action by convening a Parliamentary caucus to deal with corruption issues. The Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus has become an indispensable actor in improving oversight within the country. The USAID Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA) program supported the PACC to plan activities and provided technical training to strengthen the caucus.

“The PACC represents a successful and innovative example of an anti-corruption body within the Afghan Parliament – a concept that was unheard of not long ago,” said Najiba Husaini, a member of Afghanistan's Meshrano Jirga, or Senate.

One result of the increased advocacy on anti-corruption is that all new Cabinet Ministers, with the exception of the Minister of Information and Culture and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed Anti-Corruption pledges in January 2015.

The USAID Assistance to Legislative Bodies of Afghanistan (ALBA) activity is implemented in partnership with Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI). ALBA provided support to the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus (PACC). PACC is one of the largest and most active caucuses within the Afghan Parliament. It is one of two caucuses comprising members of both the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) and Wolesi Jirga (Lower House). ALBA's Anti-Corruption team provided technical support and trainings to actively engage PACC in anti-corruption activities. ALBA also supported PACC to undertake advocacy activities and to keep anti-corruption issues on the Parliament's agenda.

The formation of the Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Caucus is just one of the 41 executive oversight actions taken by the Afghan legislature receiving U.S. government assistance.